

THE HISTORY OF THE "NEW SOCIETY PERFIN by Peter Day

The recent change of name to the PERFIN SOCIETY has meant that the S.E.P.S. perfin die has become redundant. It was pointed out to me that the perforator I own and had used until recently for a small business registered in the name of Peter Stannard (a nom de plume used by myself for many years for writing magazine articles and derived from the maiden name of my mother), would make a perfect die for the new Society initials. I readily offered exclusive use of it to the Society and from January 1st 1984 this has been accepted as its new role.

The perforating machine is a hand operated single-die one, dating probably from the turn of the century. Its black surface is enhanced with sprays of gold foliage in a style my wife refers to as 'early Singer sewing machine'. It came to me as a birthday present, having been found in an antique shop in Chichester. Its original users are unknown and its original die was as Fig. 1, which being too wide for definitive stamps means that it was probably employed as a cheque perforator and not for any philatelic application. The purchaser, a tool-maker by trade, carefully removed the ampersand and small 's' pins to form the "new" die PS in a monogram (Fig. 2) before presenting it to me. Having given me also the original pins, the machine could, if so desired, be restored at any time to its original die.

It will be nice to see it in full use again, this time exclusively for Society business or for perforating stamps for Society members (preferably commemoratives). Being a single-die machine, as was the S.E.P.S. perforator, it will only handle single rows of stamps unless one is prepared to accept inverted perfins by folding the stamp sheet.